

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
US Steel Pickle Liquor Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep

963490



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: **POLREP #1**
****CORRECTED** Initial & Final Polrep**
US Steel Pickle Liquor Spill

Ecorse, MI
Latitude: 42.2550119 Longitude: -83.1327915

To: Keith Creagh, MDEQ
Bruce VanOtteren, MDEQ
Joe Walczak, MDEQ
Jennifer Wolf, MDEQ
Bill Schuette, Michigan Department of Attorney General
Todd Goeks, NOAA
Greg Schweitzer, NOAA
Wayne Babcock, U.S. Department of Interior
Robert Burr, U.S. Department of Interior
Valencia Darby, U.S. DOI
Lindy Nelson, U.S. DOI
Carolyn Bohlen, U.S. EPA
Sam Borries, U.S. EPA
Phillippa Cannon, U.S. EPA
Mark Durno, U.S. EPA
Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA
HQ EOC, U.S. EPA
Matt Mankowski, U.S. EPA
Cecilia Moore, U.S. EPA
Brian Schlieger, U.S. EPA
Annette Trowbridge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Bob Burns, Detroit River Keeper
Rachel Bassler, EPA
Dean Maraldo, EPA
Heidi Grether, MDEQ

From: Jeffrey Lippert, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 5/10/2017
Reporting Period: 5/08/2017-5/09/2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: PRP	Incident Category:
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 5/8/2017	Start Date: 5/8/2017
Demob Date: 5/8/2017	Completion Date: 5/9/2017
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification: Yes
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category
Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

U.S. Steel is a large steel manufacturing plant on the Detroit River in Ecorse and River Rouge, Michigan. It is located in a residential, commercial and industrial setting.

1.1.2.1 Location

1 Quality Drive, Ecorse, Wayne County, Michigan 48229

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A catastrophic failure of an 11,000 gallon spent pickle liquor AST spilled all 11,000 gallons into secondary containment. The spill was so great that it overwhelmed secondary containment and entered both U.S. Steel's waste water treatment system and the storm sewer that leads to the Detroit River.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA toured the scene with the US Steel Environmental Manager. The vast majority of the 11,000 gallon pickle liquor spill was contained in secondary containment. The pickle liquor that spilled outside of secondary containment appears mostly to have gone into a catch basin leading to the on-site WWTP that is designed to treat this waste. EPA estimates the amount of pickle liquor that entered the storm sewer leading to the Detroit River Outfall to be less than 50 gallons. Cleanup is underway with crews from EQ, CCI and US Steel. USCG Sector Detroit is also on-scene. The pH readings on scene are as follows:

In the storm sewer catch basin where spill entered the system is approximately 6 s.u.

In the storm sewer pipe leading to the Detroit River outfall is approximately 7 s.u.

In the storm sewer pipe at the Detroit River Outfall is approximately 7 s.u.

In the mixing zone of the outfall and Detroit River is approximately 7 s.u.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On 5/08/2017, U.S. Steel mobilized cleanup contractors to remove the spent pickle liquor from secondary containment with vacuum trucks. U.S. Steel also spread sand and other absorbents onto the pavement that was impacted by the spill. Sand and absorbents were placed into roll-off boxes for disposal. The pH of the storm sewer system was monitored and all were neutral.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

U.S. Steel

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
waste water	liquid	11,000		on-site	
contaminated sand	solid	60 CY	Non Haz		X

Regional Metrics		
This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.	Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored	0
	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	0
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	11,000
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks	0
Stand Alone Assessment	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	0
	Number of workers on site	18
Contaminant(s) of Concern	pH	
Oil Response Tracking		
Estimated volume	Initial amount released	N/A
	Final amount collected	N/A
CANAPS Info	FPN Ceiling Amount	N/A
	FPN Number	N/A
	Body of Water affected	N/A
Administrative and Logistical Factors (Place X where applicable)		

	Precedent-Setting HQ Consultations (e.g., fracking, asbestos)		Community challenges or high involvement		Radiological
	More than one PRP		Endangered Species Act / Essential Fish Habitat issues		Explosives
	AOC		Historic preservation issues		Residential impacts
	UAO		NPL site		Relocation
	DOJ involved		Remote location		Drinking water impacted
	Criminal Investigation Division involved		Extreme weather or abnormal field season		Environmental justice
	Tribal consultation or coordination or other issues		Congressional involvement		High media interest
	Statutory Exemption for \$2 Million		Statutory Exemption for 1 Year		Active fire present
	Hazmat Entry Conducted – Level A, B or C		Incident or Unified Command established		Actual air release (not threatened)
	CID confirms Criminal Charges Have Been Filed				

Green Metrics					
	Metric		Amount		Units
	Diesel Fuel Used		0		gallons
	Unleaded Fuel Used		0		gallons
	Alternative/E-85 Fuel Used		0		gallons
	Electricity from electric company		0		kWh
	Electric Company Name and Account #		N/A		
	Electricity from sources other than the electric company		N/A		kWh
	Solid waste reused		0		ton
	Solid waste recycled		0		ton
	Water Used		0		gallons

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

None.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

U.S. Steel will remove and replace the failed spent pickle liquor tank

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

None.

2.2.2 Issues

None.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

U.S. Steel Personnel

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

U.S. Steel Personnel

2.5.3 Information Officer

U.S. Steel Personnel

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

N/A

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

USCG

4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 1

USCG - 2

U.S. Steel - 15

5. Definition of Terms

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification System
ERRS	Emergency and Rapid Response Service
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan
su	Standard Units
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
NRC	National Response Center
OSC	On Scene Coordinator
RCRIS	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
CWA	Clean Water Act
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
US FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USCG	United States Coast Guard

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

N/A

6.2 Reporting Schedule

No further reports will be issued by EPA

7. Situational Reference Materials

NCP

CERCLA